

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 SNM-05 DEAE-00
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 AID-05 NSC-05 OMB-01
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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHEC 6155
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MANILA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 527

MANILA FOR US REP ADB; PARIS FOR DEA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, UN, AF
SUBJ: UPPER HELMAND OPIUM ERADICATION PROJECT: CURRENT STATUS

REF: A) GENEVA 589 (NOTAL), B) KABUL 301 (NOTAL)

1. REFTTEL A ARRIVED AT KABUL AFTER THE DEPARTURE OF AFGHAN NARCOTICS COORDINATOR MOHAMMAD YAHYA MAROOFI FOR HIS U.S. EXECUTIVE ORIENTATION PROGRAM; THEREFORE, THERE IS NOW NO APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT OF AFGHANISTAN (GOA) OFFICIAL AVAILABLE AT KABUL WITH WHOM THE EMBASSY CAN DISCUSS THE TYPE OF FORMAL REQUEST DESIRED BY UNFDAC.

2. ON JANUARY 17, AN EMBASSY OFFICER DISCUSSED THE JANUARY 11, UNFDAC MESSAGE WITH UNDP'S DEPUTY RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE ARTHUR N. HOLCOMBE, A U.S. CITIZEN, WHO SHORTLY WILL BECOME ACTING UNDP RES REP FOR AFGHANISTAN (BORTHWICK IS DEPARTING FOR A NEW ASSIGNMENT ON JANUARY 27 AND NO SUCCESSOR HAS BEEN NAMED YET). HOLCOMBE REPORTED THAT THE UNDP HAD NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO TAKE ANY ACTION ON UNFDAC'S REQUEST. HE WONDERED WHY
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UNFDAC CONTINUES TO OVERLOOK THE FACT THAT DECISIONS OF THE JOINT COMMISSION ON AFGHAN NARCOTICS MATTERS, AN OFFICIAL GOA ORGANIZATION, ARE INDEED FORMAL DECISIONS OF THE GOA. (COMMENT: WHATEVER CONCLUSIONS CHAIRMANMAROOFI ANNOUNCES AT THESE SESSIONS HAVE ALREADY BEEN CLEARED ON A MUCH HIGHER LEVEL -- IN SOME CASES PROBABLY EVEN BY PRESIDENT DAOUD HIMSELF.) HOLCOMBE AND THE EMBASSY OFFICER NOTED THAT, IN

ANY CASE, UNFDAC WILL BE ABLE TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER DIRECTLY WITH MAROOFI DURING HIS FEBRUARY 13-24 SOJOURN AT GENEVA.

3. HOLCOMBE OPINED FURTHER THAT IT WAS TOO PREMATURE AT THIS TIME TO EXPECT THE GOA TO "MADE A FORMAL REQUEST TO THE UN TO PROCEED WITH THE PROJECT AS DESCRIBED IN DEMETRE'S PRESENTATION TO THE JOINT COMMISSION." AT THAT DECEMBER SESSION, OBSERVED HOLCOMBE, DEMETRE ONLY PRESENTED A SKELETAL, THREE-PAGE OUTLINE OF THE GENERAL CONCEPT OF HIS PROPOSED PROJECT; ALL INTERESTED PARTIES IN AFGHANISTAN ARE NOW WAITING FOR THE FULLER PRESENTATIONS HE HAS PROMISED TO MAKE DURING HIS FEBRUARY AND APRIL VISITS. (COMMENT: THE EMBASSY MADE A SIMILAR OBSERVATION RECENTLY IN REFTEL B.)

4. HOLCOMBE REPORTED THAT THE GOA-UN -HOUSEHOLD SURVEY" OF THE PROJECT AREA HAS NOW BEEN COMPLETED -- AND THAT THE INFORMATION DEVELOPED APPEARS TO BE QUITE INTERESTING AND USEFUL. IT IS FORTUNATE THAT THIS DATA IS READY IN TIME FOR DEMETRE'S FEBRUARY VISIT.

5. HOLCOMBE HAS ALSO SIGHTED A SMALL, BUT DARK CLOUD ON THE HORIZON. DURING RECENT TALKS WITH DEPUTY PLANNING MINISTER FAROUGH, HOLCOMBE HAS DISCERNED A GROWING GOA IDEA THAT DEMETRE'S PROJECT CAN BE USED IN SOME WAY TO JUSTIFY -- AND FINANCE -- A THIRD GENERATOR FOR THE KAJAKAI DAM. SOME OF THIS AFGHAN THINKING HAS GROWN OUT OF THE RECENT VISIT OF JAMES A. CUDNEY OF CONFIDENTIAL

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THE NATIONAL RURAL ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATION, WHO DISCUSSED WITH GOA OFFICIALS THE POSSIBILITY OF INCLUDING RURAL ELECTRIFICATION IN DEMETRE'S UPPER HELMAND PROJECT AREA. (REQUEST: WOULD THE MISSION PLEASE DETERMINE THE RESULTS OF CUDNEY'S TALKS WITH DEMETRE DURING THE FORMER'S SUBSEQUENT STOP AT GENEVA?)

6. THE EMBASSY OFFICER INFORMED HOLCOMBE THAT MAROOFI ALSO RAISED THE ISSUE OF THE THIRD KAJAKAI GENERATOR DURING A LUNCHEON COVERSTATION WITH THE AMBASSADOR ON JANUARY 14. HE WAS TOLD THAT THIS TYPE OF PROJECT CANNOT BE UNDERTAKEN UNDER CURRENT USAID POLICY GUIDELINES. THE AMBASSADOR THEN OPINED TO MAROOFI THAT SUCH A PROJECT APPEARED TO BE MORE APPROPRIATE FOR SOME INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTION -- AND, IN THIS CASE, THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (ADB) WOULD APPEAR TO BE THE MOST OBVIOUS ORGANIZATION SINCE THE ADB WAS ALREADY INVOLVED IN A PROJECT FOR INCREASING THE HEIGHT OF THE GATES AT THAT DAM.

7. REQUEST: WOULD THE MISSION PLEASE DETERMINE WHAT DATE DEMETRE PLANS TO RETURN TO KABUL -- AND HOW LONG HE WILL STAY IN AFGHANISTAN THIS TIME?
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